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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] for 5 minutes.

LINE-ITEM VETOES OF DEFENSE LEGISLATION

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the recent decision of the President to exercise the line-item veto on 38 military construction projects which were authorized during the legislative process.

Over the last 3 years, the Congress has made significant progress in advancing needed facilities improvements, meeting both housing and other quality-of-life requirements and the operational and readiness requirements of the military services.

The Congress did not invent these requirements. We relied on the extensive evidence collected all year during hearings and on site visits, and it is clear that a lot more needs to be done. Military infrastructure has been neglected for years. Twenty years ago, the record was filled with discussions about World War II wood, poor housing, and unsafe working conditions. The witnesses have changed, but the testimony has not. The conditions still exist.

The Subcommittee on Military Installation and Facilities, which I chair, has worked closely with the Department of Defense and the military serv-

ices to upgrade housing and to improve facilities conditions generally. It is easy for some to be cynical about military construction projects. It is easy to call needed improvements pork. In fact, one Member of the other body thinks that anything that the President did not request is pork. If all we were going to do is follow the President's request, then why are we here? We could send in our rubber stamp and simply stay home.

More cynical, however, is the administration's lack of commitment in this area, which has been demonstrated by eroding budget requests. The real decline in the President's request over the past 5 years to support military infrastructure has been 20 percent. The fiscal year 1998 budget request for military construction was \$1.6 billion, 16 percent, less than prior year spending levels, all the while the services tell us on the record that they have multibillion-dollar facilities problems.

The \$287 million in military construction projects canceled by the President met validated military requirements. Congress worked with these military departments to assure that those funds would address real needs and that the project could be executed in fiscal year 1998. But the needs of the services are not what this exercise is all about.

These are the facts: 33 of the 38 projects, 85 percent of them, canceled by the President are in the President's own 5-year defense program. The remainder were priorities of the military services and the commands. Moreover, 26 percent of the canceled projects, 1 in 4, are in the President's fiscal year 2000 program. They are not good projects now, in the administration's judgment, but they would be good projects just 16 months from now so why cancel them?

When the defense bills are within the constraints of the budget agreement and when the projects are in the President's program, I fail to understand the

rationale for the administration's actions. The only explanation I can come to is politics, simple, crass, and cynical politics.

While the President plays politics, soldiers at Fort Campbell will continue to do vehicle maintenance in 1940's-era facilities that contain lead-based paint, asbestos, and faulty exhaust systems. The equipment that cannot fit in the undersized bays has to be worked on outside on gravel even during the winter.

We asked the Army to deploy to places like the urban streets of Somalia and Bosnia, but the troops most likely to go, those at Fort Bragg, will not be training in an adequate way because the President canceled the necessary training complex.

At Lackland Air Force Base, an aircraft painting facility was closed in 1994 because of violations of the Clean Air Act. The remaining facilities can only handle one-third of the workload and do not accommodate certain aircraft at all. The needed replacement facility was canceled by the President.

Navy Station Mayport has inadequate berthing space. The Navy believes this is a critical project. The President canceled it.

I have seen a number of the facilities for which the President has canceled improvements. I am appalled at the lack of judgment demonstrated by this administration.

No one would suggest that the Nation could not defend itself tomorrow without these projects, but given the record of neglect in basic military infrastructure, these cancellations will continue to compound a very serious problem. At each installation these projects affect readiness and, to the extent conditions are inadequate and unsafe, they must in the end be a factor in retention. We cannot continue to ignore this problem, but the administration appears to care very little about it.

The Committee on National Security held a hearing on this issue last week.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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I was appalled that both the director of the Office of Management and Budget and senior officials of the Department of Defense refused to submit to questions from the committee. Both OMB and OSD have gladly taken questions from the press on the subject. What do they have to fear if the cancellations are truly objective and justified?

Their failure to appear is all the more troubling because this administration admits that mistakes were made on the cancellations.

GUAM CALLS FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. PACKARD]. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow in the Committee on Resources at 10 a.m., a hearing will be held on H.R. 100, which is the commonwealth bill for Guam. I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska, [Mr. DON YOUNG], for allowing us to hold this hearing to achieve some final resolution on this commonwealth proposal, which has been developed on Guam throughout the decade of the 1980's, and which has been alive as proposed legislation in this Congress and previous Congresses going back to 1988 and the time of my predecessor, Mr. Ben Blaz.

The hearing will afford us an opportunity to get clarification from the administration, who has been negotiating this document, along with the Guam Commission on Self-Determination. And the person in charge of that is John Garamendi, the Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

We hope that people will understand that the commonwealth proposal is something that has been arrived at on a bipartisan basis on Guam. It is something that has achieved wide consensus on Guam, and is something which needs serious attention.

It is numbered H.R. 100, in light of the fact that next year, 1998, marks the 100th anniversary of Guam's association with the United States. Some 100 years ago, as a result of the Spanish-American War, Guam was taken and the U.S. flag flown over Guam on June 20, 1898, approximately a month earlier than Puerto Rico was taken by the United States.

Most people know Guam as a military installation, perhaps a little bit as a result of the wartime experience of the people of Guam, but Guam today is a proud island of 150,000 people, with a significant indigenous population eager to exercise their self-determination.

We have a \$3 billion a year economy fueled mostly by tourism. The military presence continues to be important, and of course Guam is very important in the strategic picture of the United

States in that part of the world, but the military no longer holds the commanding position it once did in terms of its impact on the local economy.

Joining with the three Governors, three living Governors of Guam, Gov. Carl Gutierrez, the incumbent, Gov. Joe Ada, and Gov. Paul Calvo, the latter two Republicans and the first a Democrat, is a large contingent from Guam numbering over 40 people, and I will enter their names into the RECORD.

These people reflect a good cross-section of the people of Guam. They reflect the energy and the concern and the determination of the people of Guam to reach the next level of their political development, and this next level of their political development is embodied in H.R. 100, which provides for a new expanded relationship with the Federal Government based on the principles of mutual consent and the establishment of a joint commission, provides for local control of immigration, and allows Guam to have fuller control over its own economic activities.

We hope that the administration tomorrow in their testimony, and I recognize that there are many problems, we have been in negotiation now for 4 to 5 years, that are still remaining on this issue, but we are hoping that the administration comes across tomorrow with a position that does not close the door to further discussion.

I know the Committee on Resources, which is the only committee to have the flags of the territories flying in its committee room, will take seriously its responsibility to deal with insular areas in a creative and fair-minded way. This is a call for greater participation in American democracy. It is a call whose time has come. One hundred years is just too long.

Mr. Speaker, the list of names referred to above are submitted herewith for the RECORD.

GUAM DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON FOR HEARING ON H.R. 100

Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez, First Lady Geri Gutierrez, Former Governor Joseph Ada, Former Governor Paul Calvo, Senator Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, Senator Anthony Blaz, Senator Mark Forbes, Senator Vicente Pangelinan, Senator Francis Santos, Mayor Paul McDonald, Mayor Isabel Haggard, Chief Justice Peter Siguenza, Judge Alberto Lamorena, Judge Joaquin Manibusan, Archbishop Anthony Apuron, Carlos Baretto, Leland Bettis, John Blaz, Bill Bufford, Toni Bufford.

Dennis Crisostomo, Hope Cristobal, Toni Cross, Vicky Cruz, Darrell Doss, Melissa Finney, Bernie Gines, Melanie Gisler, Elizabeth Gray, Jose Guevera, Carla Gutierrez, Hannah Gutierrez, Steven Hattori, Martin Jenkins, Scott Kimmel, Elfrie Koshiba, Diane Martos, Mary Matalas, Ben Meno, Kyle Oh.

Romy Pangilinan, Leonard Paulino, Tita Paulino, Rene Quintans, Frieda Ramarui, Rory Respicio, Ron Rivera, Richard Rodriguez, Florencio Rupley, Eileen Sablan, Anthony Sanchez, Peter Sgro, Laura Souder-Betances, Attorney General Charles Troutman, Dan Tydingco, Shingpe Lee Wang.

FREEDOM WORKS AWARD TO MARTHA WILLIAMSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to present the Freedom Works Award to Martha Williamson, executive producer of CBS networks television show "Touched By An Angel" and "Promised Land."

Martha Williamson takes her responsibility as a television producer very seriously. Her fine work on "Touched By An Angel" and "Promised Land" has proven that values and principles are good for TV and good for TV ratings.

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That is because values strike a chord with the millions of Americans who struggle each day to reaffirm the values of responsibility and honesty and faith in their lives. Martha is serious about creating entertainment that reinforces the importance of family, faith and community. For that reason I have chosen to honor her work.

I established the Freedom Works Award to acknowledge individuals and groups who seek the personal reward of accepting and promoting responsibility without reliance on or funding from the Federal Government. The stand Martha has taken on behalf of profamily television is exactly the type of personal initiative I sought to highlight when I established this award.

Mr. Speaker, no Federal Government agency, no government rule, no government regulation requires Martha to produce profamily television. Rather, Martha has taken it upon herself to ensure that at least once a week families all across America have a chance to sit together and view television that stresses the values of faith, family, honesty, and responsibility. The millions that take advantage of that opportunity each week attest to her success.

I want to be very clear, Mr. Speaker. Martha Williamson does not do politics. What she does through her work is to take on the tough issues which affect us all, issues like suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, and race relations in the inner city.

Millions tune in weekly to "Touched By An Angel" and "Promised Land" and countless letters have poured into the show with stories of marriages that have been restored, debts that have been forgiven, and suicides that have been averted as a result of the uplifting message of Martha's work.

Mr. Speaker, I have raised 5 children. When you raise 5 children you learn a few things. As a young parent I remember very clearly the challenge I faced in making sure that my children were not exposed to the destructive influences all too often seen in the modern entertainment industry.

As a lawmaker and, most important, as a parent, I want to personally thank